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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

GUN VIOLENCE IN TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, at the Trenton Art All Night Festival, a fight between two individuals resulted in a mass shooting; 17 people shot, at least one critically injured. Fortunately, the only casualty—fatality, I should say—was one of the shooters.

Even so, nearly 20 people shot at a community festival dedicated to breathing new life into the city and bringing the community together around something that is positive deserves our attention.

Unfortunately, we have a bad habit of assigning sympathy and coverage only to certain kinds of shootings. In fact, it is safe to say that there are some who believe that there are communities in which gun violence will always be an unavoidable norm. That is false. That is a horrible and destructive stereotype that ignores the underpinning of our conversation about guns.

From access to excessively destructive accessories, guns are the problem.

NRA advocates would argue that in Parkland the shooter got his gun legally. But should an 18-year-old be able to buy a gun, especially when that gun is never going to be used for sport?

Those same advocates would argue that most shootings in urban areas occur with illegally obtained weapons and that no regulation would prevent them. But because we refuse to require registries, we don't know where these guns come from. Perhaps if we did, perhaps if we knew who the first buyer was and which States those illegal weapons came from, they wouldn't end up in the wrong hands.

Mr. Speaker, our country's gun problem isn't a single-sided one. It is multifaceted and will require more than just one angle to solve.

Fortunately, from members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force alone, there are more than 70 proposals that seek to address this singular and deadly crisis. I am responsible for two of them: The STOP Online Ammunition Sales Act of 2017 to flag for law enforcement large bullet and ammunition purchases that suggest the kind of stockpiling that precedes an attack; and the Handgun Licensing and Registration bill, which would create the kind of registry that might help us keep more weapons out of the wrong hands.

Earlier this week, I wrote a letter to you, Mr. Speaker, asking for consideration of any one of these 70 bills in honor of the victims of Sunday's shooting. I have yet to receive a response to my question, and with the paralyzing fear that seems to grip my Republican colleagues whenever we mention guns, I don't have high hopes that I will get one.

But I do know that the longer we continue to ignore this problem, the more people will be hurt and the more lives will be lost.

At work, at school, at the grocery store, at the playground, in the homes

with violent partners, by accident during play dates, at the hands of those suffering from mental illness, with or without law enforcement being present, whether or not someone in the audience or classroom is armed, guns have always been the problem. We need to accept that so that we can get to work on it and move on it.

I continue to pray for the health and recovery of those who were injured in Trenton, as well in other places, just as I will continue to work on this issue.

HONORING PENNY CELESTE FORREST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HANDEL). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Penny Celeste Forrest of Waco, Texas, who passed away on June 15, 2018.

Penny was born in 1948 in Dallas, Texas. She was educated at East Texas State University, now known as Texas A&M University-Commerce; Baylor University; the University of Texas at Arlington; McLennan Community College; Texas State Technology College; and Texas Woman's University.

Penny was very active in our Waco community. She served on various boards, associations, and commissions, including the following: president of the Central Texas Museum District, vice president of the Austin Avenue Neighborhood Association, chair of the Boy Scouts Award Committee, chair of the Waco-McLennan County Library Commission, the McLennan County Historical Commission, the Texas State Technical College board of regents, the city of Waco Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, the city of Waco Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Board, and the city of Waco Buildings and Standards Commission.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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For the past 8 years, Penny has been an integral member of my team that serves the 17th Congressional District of Texas. She was one of the first three hires I made when I assumed office in 2011.

Since then, she worked in our Waco office as our office manager and our caseworker. She loved her job, and she especially loved being able to serve others.

Penny was also in charge of handling the Military Service Academy nominations for our office. Each year, she would compile all of the applications and coordinate with our service academy board to interview applicants. She took great pride in being able to help young men and women get accepted into our Nation's service academies.

In addition to her official duties, she also served as the matriarch of our Waco office team. She befriended and mentored everyone with whom she worked. She especially enjoyed working with all of our interns, and she would advise them during their time in our office.

There is no doubt that some of the wisdom that she shared with them has helped shape their lives and their careers.

Penny was an exceptional and devoted person who will be greatly missed by all those lives she touched.

The thing that I know that she loved more than serving others was loving her husband, Jerry, and her children. For as long as I can remember, Jerry and Penny would have lunch together every day in our office. They truly enjoyed each other's company. Their love and dedication to each other was remarkable and something to be modeled by all of us.

A little over a year ago, we buried my father-in-law. During the graveside service, the pastor said something that I will always remember. He said, When we leave this Earth, we should all aspire to leave behind three things: a good name, a good family, and a forwarding address.

Penny Forrest left behind all three of those things, and in particular, she left a forwarding address. Because of her Christian faith and her belief in Jesus Christ as her Lord and savior, she is celebrating with him in heaven. Her actions serve as a great example for all of us here still on Earth.

She and Jerry loved to go on cruises, and she is on the ultimate cruise right now.

Madam Speaker, Penny's life was defined by her selfless service to those around her. She worked tirelessly to better our community. She has certainly left an enduring impression on her central Texas community and the 17th Congressional District.

She will be forever remembered as a selfless servant, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, and a dear friend.

My wife, Gina, and I, along with the entire Texas 17 Congressional Team, offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Forrest family.

We also lift up the family and friends of Penny in our prayers.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over the Capitol to honor the life and legacy of Penny Forrest.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our military men and women who serve us, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

RECOGNIZING ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

Every June, this Nation is reminded of the great public health challenge of Alzheimer's, and we redouble our efforts to combat this terrible disease.

The numbers are sobering. The lives lost to this grave illness have increased 123 percent over the last decade. Many families have lost loved ones, and many more struggle with family or friends who fight this awful disease.

The work of loved ones to provide high-quality healthcare and comfort is extraordinary. Advocates on the front lines deserve our deepest gratitude, and they include Jeanee Castilles of Lambertville, New Jersey, and Dali Serrano of Wharton, New Jersey, in the district I serve, who work every day in the cause of research, of treatment, and of support.

There is new hope, thanks to the work of people like Jeanee and Dali and those of us who serve in Congress. Together, we are committed to more research funds and knocking down barriers to 21st century innovation.

Together, during this awareness month, and, indeed, throughout the entire year, we must continue to raise our voices about Alzheimer's and ensure that the fight to find a cure is a national priority of the highest order.

It will take a united effort across this great country, and I believe that we are up to the task.

ISSUES OF SEGREGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise because I love my country, and I have great concern for where it is headed.

I am very much concerned, Madam Speaker, because I have seen, and the multitudes have seen, photographs of children who have been separated from their parents.

I have here one such display; a child who is separated from a parent, a child that is distraught. And my concern emanates from the notion that if you can tolerate this, if you can look at this, and if you have the power to do something about it and you won't, if your heart is so hardened that you can

look at this picture of this baby and conclude that this is just a part of a process, then that says to me I should be concerned about the direction of my country.

We have come a long way in my lifetime. I had to drink from colored water fountains. I had to sit in the back of the bus. I had to go to segregated schools. I know what segregation looks like. I know what it smells like. I have had to go to these filthy colored restrooms. I know what it sounds like. I was called the ugly names. I know what it hurts like when you have people who would chase you just because of who you are.

So we have come a long way, and that concerns me because I am not sure where this says we are going.

But I do know this: I don't want to see us go back to that dark past because, Madam Speaker, for those who don't know, here is what it looks like.

□ 0915

This is a picture from Little Rock, Arkansas. This is a picture of a child merely attempting to go to school, committing no crime. This is a picture of what hate looks like.

Children ought not be subjected to this level of hate and vitriol. This is a past that I don't want to revisit.

For this young lady and others to get into this high school—that was being paid for with their tax dollars, I might add—President Eisenhower had to send in the 101st Airborne Division of the Army. It took the Army to integrate Central High.

It is an unpleasant thing to have to endure and to have to visit, but for some of us, it is about more than just a process. For some of us, it is about a way of life that we endured and that we suffered. For some of us who have felt the sting of discrimination, this is a painful thing to see.

For those who would say: "Well, we will never go back there. You will never see that again," well, I never thought I would see a day when a President of the United States would ban people from the country who happen to be of a certain religion. I never thought I would see a day when a President of the United States would say: "There were some nice people" among the bigots, the xenophobes, the White nationalists, and the Klansmen in Charlottesville. I never thought I would see that come from the Presidency, from the President of the United States, not in my lifetime.

So to those who say: "Worry not. We won't go back," I say: We should be warned, and we should not allow ourselves to be deceived.

PARK AND RECREATION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, recently, I introduced